

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 194 - HB 285

January 29, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enhances the penalty for certain animal cruelty offenses involving a cock, from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E felony. Requires a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,500 for the offense of being a spectator at a cock fight.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 39-14-203(a)(1)-(3) establishes it is a Class A misdemeanor for a person to:
 - Own, possess, keep, use or train a cock for the purpose of fighting, baiting or injuring another such animal, for amusement, sport or gain;
 - Cause, for amusement, sport or gain, a cock to fight, bait or injure another animal, or each other; or
 - Permit any such acts to be done on any premises under the person's charge or control, or aid or abet those acts.
- The proposed legislation enhances the penalty to a Class E felony.
- Based on information provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, there has been an average of zero Class A misdemeanor convictions of animal cruelty involving a cock, as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-203(a)(1)-(3) in each of the last five years.
- There will not be a sufficient change in the number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant change in revenue or expenditures.
- Any impact to the court system as a result of the proposed legislation is estimated to be not significant.
- Based on the Fiscal Review Committee's 2008 study and the Administrative Office of the Courts' 2012 study on collection of court costs, fees, and fines, collection in criminal cases is insignificant. The proposed legislation will not significantly change state or local revenue.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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